

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01487 111924Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 NIC-01

DRC-01 /097 W

----- 061013

O R 111828Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 135

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 1487

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XT, BE

SUBJECT: ELECTION RESULTS

REF: A. BRUSSELS 1468, 1467, 1401

B. BRUSSELS 1390, 1351, 1189, 1170, 726 NOTAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 01487 111924Z

SUMMARY: THE MAJOR SURPRISE OF THE MARCH 10 ELECTION OUTCOME IS THAT THE FRANCOPHONE LINGUISTIC ALLIANCE (WALLONIAN RALLY AND BRUSSELS

FRANCON GZNSLONT) NOT ONLY FAILED TO SCORE IMPORTANT GAINS BUT LOST 3 OF THEIR 24 SEATS IN PARLIAMENT AFTER HAVING SCORED SHARP GAINS IN THE ELECTIONS OF 1968 AND 1971. THE FLEMISH LINGUISTIC PARTY (VOLKSUNIE) GAINED ONLY ONE SEAT; THE COMMUNIST PARTY LOST ONE SEAT. THE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS REMAIN THE LARGEST PARTY IN BELGIUM (WITH 71 SEATS COMPARED TO 67 IN THE PREVIOUS PARLIAMENT, FOLLOWED BY THE SOCIALISTS (60 SEATS NOW, 61 BEFORE). THE EMBASSY INTERPRETS THE OUTCOME AS DEMONSTRATING THAT THE BELGIAN ELECTORATE IS CONTENT TO SEE REGIONALIZATION IMPLEMENTED CONSERVATIVELY BY THE TRADITIONAL PARTIES, AND FINDS THE TRADITIONAL PARTIES BETTER PREPARED THAN THE LINGUISTIC PARTIES TO COPE WITH THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THE FLEMISH SOCIAL CHRISTIAN (CVP) LEADER LEO TINDEMANS IS THE LOGICAL FIRST CHOICE WHEN THE KING LOOKS FOR A CANDIDATE TO LEAD A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. ELECTION RESULTS. ELECTION RETURNS ARE STILL INCOMPLETE AS OF NOON MARCH 11. DISTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS REPORTED IN SUMMARY IS BASED ON PARTIAL RETURNS AND PROJECTIONS. THE FIGURES GIVEN ARE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE REVISION OF A SEAT OR TWO.

3. GENERAL. LINGUISTIC/FEDERALIST PARTIES HAVE SUFFERED LOSSES IN POPULAR VOTES IN ALL THREE REGIONS. THE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS MADE GAINS IN ALL REGIONS. THE SOCIALISTS SUFFERED LOSSES IN FLANDERS AND BRUSSELS BUT MADE MODEST GAINS IN WALLONIA. LIBERALS GAINED IN FLANDERS, LOST GROUND IN WALLONIA, AND SUFFERED SELF-INFLICTED WOUNDS IN BRUSSELS REGION THROUGH FACTIONAL DIFFERENCES. THE LIBERALS WOULD HAVE 34 SEATS IF ALL FACTIONS UNITED, INCLUDING THE PLDP FACTION IN CARTEL WITH THE FDF IN BRUSSELS.

4. SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY. THE PRINCIPAL WINNERS IN THE ELECTION WERE THE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS WHO MADE GAINS IN ALL THREE REGIONS. OUTGOING VICE PREMIER LEO TINDEMANS IN ANTWERP, MINISTER FOR WALLONIAN REGIONAL AFFAIRS JEAN-PIERRE GRAFE IN LIEGE, AND DEFENSE MINISTER PAUL VANDEN BOEYNANTS ALL MADE STRONG PERSONAL SHOWINGS.

5. SOCIALIST PARTY. THE SOCIALISTS LOST HEAVILY IN FLANDERS EXCEPT IN LIMBOURG PROVINCE WHERE ECONOMIC MINISTER WILLY CLAES LED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 01487 111924Z

PARTY EFFORT. THE PSB ALSO LOST GROUND IN BRUSSELS, EVEN IN THE SOCIALIST STRONGHOLD OF ANDERLECHT. IN WALLONIA THE SOCIALISTS MADE SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN HAINAUT PROVINCE WHERE MINISTER OF LABOR ERNEST GLINNE AND FORMER STATE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING AND PLANNING ROBERT URBAIN PROVIDED YOUNG AND DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP. IN LIEGE PROVINCE, WHERE

THE SOCIALIST LISTS WERE HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER EDMOND LEBURTON AND PARTY CO-PRESIDENT ANDRE COOLS, MODEST PSB GAINS WERE OVERSHADOWED

BY A PROPORTIONATELY GREATER IMPROVEMENT IN THE PSC STANDING.

SOCIALIST

GAINS IN THE WALLONIAN IRON AND COAL REGIONS WERE PROBABLY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MILITANT FRANCOPHONE WALLONIAN RALLY, AND TO A LIMITED EXTENT, THE COMMUNISTS.

6. LIBERAL PARTY. THE LIBERALS LOST GROUND IN WALLONIA, WHERE LEFTIST SENTIMENT IS TRADITIONALLY STRONG. THEY IMPROVED THEIR STANDING IN FLANDERS, WHERE THEIR LISTS WERE HEADED BY POPULAR YOUNG LEADERS LIKE VICE PRIME MINISTER DE CLERCQ AND CHAMBER WHIP AND PARTY VICE PRESIDENT HERMAN DECROO. IN BRUSSELS THE TRADITIONAL LIBERALS APPEAR TO HAVE MADE A SMALL COME-BACK FROM THEIR 1971 DRUBBING, BUT WITH SOME LIBERALS JOINING A CARTEL WITH THE FRANCO-PHONE FRONT, THE LIBERAL MOVEMENT HAS SUFFERED FROM FACTIONALISM.

7. LINGUISTIC PARTIES. IN THE BRUSSELS REGION, THE FRANCOPHONE FRONT RAN WELL BELOW EXPECTATIONS AND JOINED THE FLEMISH SOCIALISTS IN THE CATEGORY OF BIGGEST LOSER IN THE ELECTIONS. THE WALLONIAN RALLY NEARLY BALANCED LOSSES IN HAINAUT AND NAMUR PROVINCES WITH GAINS IN THE PROVINCES OF LIEGE AND LUXEMBOURG, LOSING ONE SEAT.

8. PERSONALITY AND STYLE. TRADITIONALLY, THE PERSONALITY OF CANDIDATES HAS BEEN CONSIDERED LESS IMPORTANT UNDER THE BELGIAN SYSTEM OF PARTY LISTS THAN UNDER OTHER SYSTEMS OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER PERSONALITIES HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN BELGIAN ELECTIONS AND THE LATEST ELECTION CONFIRMS THE TREND. THE LOSER PARTIES--THE FLEMISH SOCIALISTS AND THE BRUSSELS FRANCOPHONE FRONT--WERE NOTABLY LACKING IN YOUNGER PERSONALITIES. AMONG LEADERS OF THE WALLONIAN RALLY FRANCOIS PERIN STOOD OUT AS CLEVER AND EVEN ENGAGING, BUT WITHOUT MUCH CREDIBILITY AS A GOVERNMENT LEADER. IN BRUSSELS, THE FDF PRESIDENT ANDRE LAGASSE SEEMED COLD AND REMOTE. THE FDF LIST WAS GRACED BY THE PRESENCE OF PAUL HENRI SPAAK'S DAUGHTER ANTOINETTE. SHE OFFERED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 BRUSSE 01487 111924Z

CHARM AND GENTILITY BUT ONLY LIMITED CREDIBILITY. THE FDF SEEMED UNPLEASANTLY

E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION FORECASTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRUSSE01487
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740354/aaaabykh.tel
Line Count: 151
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BRUSSELS 1468, 1467, 1401
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 28 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION RESULTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XT, BE, (RALLY, WALLONIAN), (GZNSLONT, FRANCON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005